

Bacteriology Dept.

September 5, 1957

Dear Roger:

Thank you for your letter and the ms. copy. I have gotten to these as soon as I could. As you suggested, I have just sent a corrected copy to Miss St. Clair. She will arrange to have the new version retyped and forwarded to you.

The division of opinion by the reviewers was just what I ~~would~~ would have predicted, and I am not sure I disagree with the more critical of the two. However, as I pointed out earlier, this is in the nature of a stylistic experiment, and ~~now~~ I will be interested to see the outcome in terms of general critical response.

I do not believe the list of references should be curtailed: in the nature of the work, it has to take account of a great many precedents. If anything, I am uneasy that I may have overlooked or underplayed other relevant studies.

The suggestions of the first reviewer were most constructive, and I have adopted virtually all of them. May I ask you to convey my thanks? In a few places, I considered an active verb preceded by first person pronoun preferable to the conventional passive form, and retained the former. This could be altered too without great loss.

I am assuming that the ms. will be accepted in its revised form & hope you will have received this in time to forestall any delay.

We have had a most interesting trip and are now settled for our job of work here. I was particularly intrigued by some simplified methods that Fazekas has worked out for culture of 'flu virus and am listening attentively to Burnet's colleagues on their work on its genetics. There has been quite a flurry here about 'the Asian' and the Sydney newspapers made quite a play over a few cases of staphylococcal pneumonia associated with flu: the headlines were

blazing with the "GOLDEN DEATH". The epidemic is pretty well over now; we should feel the full force of it in the US this winter. It has not been an especially severe disease (with rare exceptions) but the incidence has been very high -- from 10 to 60% in individual local outbreaks, and by now virtually everyone here has had it. Esther had rather a prolonged siege (diagnosis?) possibly compounded by unheated houses in a marginal winter climate; so far I've not, and I just hope some minor catarrh a few weeks ago was it. The vaccinations don't appear to have been especially effective.

Have a good holiday yourself.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. I have no special nominations now for the Board. My principal candidates have all gotten on.